

## Message Text

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15

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /083 W

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R 051610Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2039

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION USBERLIN

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, GE

SUBJECT: GDR PRESS COVERAGE ON PANAMA

1. SED PARTY ORGAN NEUES DEUTSCHLAND (ND) CARRIED AN ARTICLE ON PANAMA FEBRUARY 5 BY ND LATIN AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT JOCHEN PREUSSLER. UNDER THE HEADING "NEW LINK IN THE CHAIN OF IMPERIALIST ATTACKS", THE ARTICLE MAINTAINS THAT IN LATE JANUARY THE TORRIJOS REGIME UNCOVERED A PLOT BY RIGHTWING FORCES DIRECTED FROM ABROAD TO SABOTAGE LAND REFORM IN CHIRIQUI PROVINCE. THE GROUP IN QUESTION IS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH PANAMANIAN EXILE GROUPS BASED IN MIAMI WHO SEEK TO TOPPLE TORRIJOS.

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LATIN AMERICAN PRESS SOURCES ARE USED TO LINK THE GROUPS

TO EX-PRESIDENT ARNULFO ARIAS.

2. THE ND PIECE GOES ON TO STATE THAT THE ANTI-TORRIJOS FORCES IN PANAMA ALSO HAVE DIRECT CONTACT WITH "A FORMER PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE IN THE US" WHO IS DESCRIBED AS AN OPPONENT OF A NEW PANAMA CANAL TREATY. IT FURTHER WARNS AGAINST THE CONTINUING STRENGTH OF INTERNATIONAL FRUIT CORPORATIONS SUCH AS UNITED FRUIT AND STANDARD BRANDS WHICH ARE DESCRIBED AS HAVING BROUGHT DOWN OTHER PROGRESSIVE GOVERNMENTS IN LATIN AMERICA. THE IMPERIALIST FORCES AND REACTIONARY GROUPS IN PANAMA HOPE TO MAKE PANAMA A SECURE ECONOMIC AND STRATEGIC BASE FOR IMPERIALISM. HOWEVER, TORRIJOS' FIGHT FOR THE COMPLETE RETURN OF THE CANAL ZONE HAS THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE WORKING CLASS AND LABOR UNIONS IN PANAMA.

3. COMMENT: ND HAS CONFINED ITSELF IN THE PAST TO OCCASIONAL BRIEF REPORTS ON PANAMA FROM FOREIGN PRESS SOURCES OR TO PASSING REFERENCES TO STATEMENTS ON PANAMA IN THE UN. THE PREUSSLER ARTICLE IS THE MOST EXTENSIVE AND ANTI-US REPORT ON PANAMA TO HAVE APPEARED IN SOME TIME. GROVE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ANTIAMERICAN, PRESS COMMENTS, SABOTAGE, PROVINCE, PLOTS, LAND REFORMS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 05 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976BERLIN05202  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760045-0454  
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**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 07 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GDR PRESS COVERAGE ON PANAMA  
**TAGS:** PFOR, GC, PN, PQ, XM  
**To:** STATE MOSCOW  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006